

Message Text

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ORIGIN IO-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 COME-00 OES-05 FEA-01 AID-05 CEQ-01

CIAE-00 OFA-01 DODE-00 EB-07 EPA-04 INR-07 L-03

NSF-02 NSC-05 NSAE-00 PM-04 USIA-15 SS-15 SP-02

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO USMISSION GENEVA

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ECE, SENV

SUBJECT: ECE - CHEMICAL INDUSTRY COMMITTEE: FLUOROCARBON
TASK FORCE

PASS FOLLOWING TO VEITH OF ECE SECRETARIAT FROM HARRY F.
PFANN:

1. THIS IS TO FOLLOW UP THE DISCUSSION OF THE FLUOROCARBON-
OZONE DEPLETION PROBLEM AT THE OCTOBER 15-17 MEETING OF THE
ECE CHEMICAL COMMITTEE. SPECIFICALLY, I WOULD LIKE TO
ADDRESS THE PROPOSAL THAT A TASK FORCE BE ESTABLISHED TO
INITIATE WORK ON THE PROBLEM BY THE ECE CHEMICAL COMMITTEE
AND YOUR SUBSEQUENT REQUEST (VIA YOUR LETTER OF 4 NOVEMBER)
THAT THE U.S. SERVE AS THE LEAD NATION IN SUCH AN EFFORT.

2. WHILE THE U.S. ENDORSES THE ESTABLISHMENT OF AN ECE
TASK FORCE ON FLUOROCARBONS, UNFORTUNATELY THE U.S. DELEGATE
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WILL NOT BE IN A POSITION TO ASSUME THE LEADERSHIP OF SUCH

A BODY. HOWEVER, ASSUMING SUFFICIENT COUNTRIES EXPRESS INTEREST IN PARTICIPATING IN A TASK FORCE, I WILL BE PLEASED TO PROVIDE NECESSARY U.S. INPUTS THERETO. ALTHOUGH MY REASON FOR NOT WISHING TO CHAIR A FLUOROCARBON TASK FORCE IS BASED ON THE FACT THAT OTHER DUTIES PRECLUDE MY BEING ABLE TO DEVOTE THE NECESSARY TIME TO SUCH AN EFFORT, IT WOULD APPEAR APPROPRIATE FOR A COUNTRY OTHER THAN THE U.S. TO HEAD THE TASK FORCE SINCE THE U.S. IS ALREADY CARRYING OUT (JOINTLY WITH CANADA) THE LEAD RESPONSIBILITY FOR FLUOROCARBONS WITHIN THE OECD.

3. TO ASSIST IN INITIATING THE TASK FORCE PROJECT, WE HAVE PREPARED A DRAFT PROPOSAL (BEING SENT VIA SEPARATE TELEGRAM) WHICH YOU MAY FIND USEFUL IN FORMULATING A COMMUNICATION FROM THE SECRETARIAT TO THE MEMBER DELEGATIONS. IN OUR VIEW, INITIATING A TASK FORCE WILL REQUIRE EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST AND WILLINGNESS TO PARTICIPATE FROM AT LEAST 3-4 COUNTRIES, IN ADDITION TO THE U.S. IF SUCH INTEREST MATERIALIZES, WE WOULD SUPPORT YOUR NOMINATION OR SELECTION OF ANY OF THE PARTICIPATING COUNTRIES AS HEAD OF THE TASK FORCE.

4. AT A LATER DATE, WE WOULD (IF DESIRED) BE PLEASED TO SUGGEST SPECIFIC DATA ELEMENTS WHICH SHOULD BE INCLUDED IN ANY QUESTIONNAIRE WHICH WOULD BE DEVELOPED BY THE TASK FORCE. WE WILL ALSO PLAN TO SEND YOU SUCH ADDITIONAL REPORTS AS MAY BE USEFUL OF A BACKGROUND OR REFERENCE NATURE.

5. INASMUCH AS THERE ARE SEVERAL RELATED ACTIVITIES, EITHER UNDERWAY OR BEING PLANNED, BY ORGANIZATIONS SUCH AS THE OECD, UNEP, AND NATO-CCMS, THE ECE PROJECT SHOULD BE CAREFULLY STRUCTURED TO BUILD UPON, SUPPLEMENT AND PREVENT DUPLICATION WITH THIS RELATED WORK. WE BELIEVE THAT SUCH A STRUCTURE CAN BE DEvised, WHICH WILL ENABLE THE CHEMICAL COMMITTEE TO CARRY OUT A MEANINGFUL WORK PROGRAM IN THIS AREA. IT IS CLEAR THAT THE ECE CHEMICAL COMMITTEE IS AN APPROPRIATE FORUM TO DEAL WITH THIS CHEMICAL INDUSTRY-RELATED PROBLEM AND THAT IT MAY OFFER THE MOST DIRECT ACCESS TO INFORMATION ON FLUOROCARBON PRODUCTION, USE, UNCLASSIFIED

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RESEARCH AND TRENDS FOR THE TOTAL EUROPEAN AREA.

6. HOPING THE FLUOROCARBON TASK FORCE WILL BECOME A REALITY, I STAND READY TO PROVIDE WHATEVER U.S. INFORMATION INPUTS MAY BE REQUIRED. ROBINSON

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